

# Interracial News Service

A DIGEST OF TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RELATIONS

BI-MONTHLY

\$2.00 FOR TWO YEARS

VOLUME 24

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1953

NUMBER 1

## Education—the American Scene

### *In the Supreme Court*

On December 9-11, a basic constitutional question of profound significance to millions of Americans was debated for ten hours in the chambers of the United States Supreme Court; namely, the constitutionality of the practice of Southern and border states of providing separate grade and high schools for white and colored children. This jimcrow practice was put on trial in five cases—affecting respectively schools in Kansas, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington, D. C., and Delaware—which the Court heard in succession. The Court will now consider the cases and issue its decisions, probably sometime before its session ends next June.

But there is no assurance that the Court's opinions will dispose of the basic issue. The Court may decide the cases on grounds that skirt the constitutional principle.

If the Court addresses itself directly to the profound constitutional question involved, its decision will affect the lives of our citizens for generations to come.

One of the difficulties in cases of this kind is that the really decisive issue is one which is technically irrelevant. The argument before the Court showed clearly enough that the Court was concerned whether segregation could in fact be eliminated by a Court decision and whether it was desirable to do so. Theoretically, neither of these questions was before the Court. If segregation has a discriminatory effect, the Court should condemn it regardless of the results. If it does not, it must be upheld, no matter how undesirable. Hence, the issue which is likely to decide the case was debated only indirectly. . . .

The implications of a decision for or against segregation itself are obvious and need not be detailed here. A middle ground decision could lean either way. It would have to be tested by several criteria.

First, how far does it reduce segregation? If the decision will lead quickly to the admission of substantial numbers of Negroes to white schools, it will be a substantial advance. Civil rights groups have long insisted that integration can be accepted without disturbance even in states of the deep South. If, without condemning segregation, the Court in effect requires integration in some districts and its decree is put into effect, then the persistent belief that integration is impossible will be greatly weakened. . . .

Second, will the decision lighten or increase the burden of litigation? Purely technical aspects of the opinions will determine whether it will be possible to achieve quick gains in the lower courts or whether it still will be necessary to take every case to the Supreme Court. Aside from technical aspects, the attitude expressed by the Supreme Court will be important. Up to now, most of the lower courts have been hostile to change. That attitude will continue until the Supreme Court makes plain that it expects them to be expeditious in redressing obvious injustices.

Third, have substantial gains been achieved in particular cases? For example, the Court may go much further in the District of Columbia case than in the others. During the argument, Mr. Justice Frankfurter reminded counsel that the District was a "Federal territory." The Court can condemn segregation there on grounds which have no application to the states. Such a decision would be a substantial advance. In addition, the Court may feel freer to move ahead in the border states of Kansas and Delaware than Virginia and South Carolina. The particular way in which the two border state cases came before the Court makes this possible.

During the past ten years, the Court has moved ahead against segregation steadily but slowly. Many jimcrow practices have been eliminated or reduced but the central core is still almost untouched. The decisions in these cases will determine whether the progress of the past will be halted and reversed, whether it will continue at its present slow pace, or whether it will now be accelerated to a pace which offers hope that the blight of segregation can be removed within our Lifetime.—*Bulletin, National Community Relations Advisory Council*; January 10

### New Patterns

#### *In California*

An article by John Gerrity published in *Colliers* of February 14, describes how the citizens of San Francisco exercised responsible citizenship and successfully attacked

The matter in these pages is presented for the reader's information. It is not to be construed as reflecting the attitudes of the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations or of The National Council of Churches.

the obsolete patterns of discrimination against racial minorities. Among the areas of life which felt the impact of this concerted approach was the public school system. Mr. Gerrity reported that, "San Francisco knew intolerance, no doubt about it. But today the picture has changed amazingly. In the public schools, whites are teaching Negroes, Negroes are teaching whites, and Orientals are teaching both. Children of all races and faiths may attend any school in the city, so long as its physical facilities can accommodate them. (*Colliers*, Feb. 14)

#### *In Indiana*

Problems of education in bi-racial communities are under study and re-examination throughout the country. Indianapolis, (Indiana) "the most Southern of Northern cities," is known throughout the Nation for its solution of the problem. The Washington Post sent Jeanne Rogers to this Indiana city to find out how it tackled this difficult job. Probably no city can imitate or duplicate wholly the methods successfully used here. Local factors differ too greatly. Yet all cities with diverse racial groups can learn something from the Indianapolis step-at-a-time approach.

According to the last official report, 44 of the city's 83 grade schools have integrated classes. Because of the population picture in certain areas, 26 schools are all white and 13 are all Negro. Six high schools are mixed, only the seventh remaining entirely Negro.

Nearly 65 percent of the city schools have integrated enrollments. The percentage of Negroes in the mixed grade schools ranges from 21 to 75. The ratio of Negroes in the high schools ranges up to about 15 percent.

Indianapolis school officials keep no permanent record of the number of Negro and white students attending individual buildings.

"They're all children to us," said Paul I. Miller, assistant superintendent in charge of pupil personnel. "We don't think in terms of Negro and white pupils any more." (*The Washington Post*, February 15).

#### *In the Southwest*

The Southwest has started on a road which colored citizens hope soon will lead to the end of discrimination in employ-



ment and education. Indications of the trend are actions which have ended or tend to end segregation in public schools, and legislative efforts in behalf of FEPC bills.

In Arizona and New Mexico, steps have been taken to end jim-crow schools and to end job discrimination. Foremost was a decision of the Maricopa County Supreme Court in Arizona outlawing segregation in Phoenix high schools . . .

In New Mexico, the cities of Las Cruces and Carlsbad have taken steps to end segregated schools. Last week Las Cruces abolished . . . segregation at the high school level by ordering the transfer of some 22 colored pupils to the Union High School.

Both Arizona and New Mexico are states in which segregation in schools is optional with local authorities under state law. . . . (*Afro-American*, February 28).

### An Editorial

Months may pass before a decision is rendered but sooner or later the U. S. Supreme Court must rule on the case involving racial segregation in public schools, arguments for which have been concluded. . . .

Usually when we discuss educational segregation we think of the deep southern states such as Mississippi, Georgia and the Carolinas because it is there where the issue is constantly being argued. . . .

Here in West Virginia we have done much to correct the evil. Quietly and without the fanfare that associates itself with the Supreme Court case we have taken progressive steps to erase prejudice within our educational system. Negroes attend post graduate courses at West Virginia University and receive other benefits they didn't enjoy even a decade ago.

Much more is to be desired, and some day soon we should examine our consciences and do something about striking from our state constitution the unwholesome and dishonest sentence at the very conclusion of the section on education which reads: "White and colored persons shall not be taught in the same school."

In the very light of the language of the Bill of Rights, which precedes it, the West Virginia constitution is a mockery unto itself for it clearly states that "All men are, by nature, equally free and independent." It would seem a pity for a progressive state like ours to be compelled by a federal court to effect such a correction. It would be much better if we did it on our own. (*The Charleston Gazette*, December 19).

### Moral Values and Law

TO THE PRESIDENT, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND THE GOVERNORS OF THOSE STATES WHERE RACIAL SEGREGATION IS ENFORCED BY LAW:

WHEREAS, there are before the Supreme Court of the United States cases involving the constitutionality of enforced segregation education in Delaware, Kan-

sas, South Carolina, Virginia and the District of Columbia, and

WHEREAS, the decision rendered by the Court will have great bearing upon the very existence of democracy within the boundaries of the United States which must stand today as the democratic stronghold in the world, and

WHEREAS, we as youth will be vitally affected by this decision, and

WHEREAS, equal opportunities which are fundamental to a democratic society cannot exist in a segregated system, and

WHEREAS, a segregated system is founded upon undemocratic laws, which are in antithesis to the substance and spirit of our constitution,

WE, 141 delegates coming from 48 colleges and universities in 18 Southern and border states attending an interracial, interdenominational conference convened in Columbia, South Carolina, for the purpose of studying "Youth and Racial Unity Through Educational Opportunity", do hereby petition that you act immediately to eliminate segregation in education.

This resolution was passed December 31, at the final session of the three-day conference at Allen University and Benedict College which was sponsored by nearly 500 outstanding persons in the South and co-ordinated by the Southern Conference Educational Fund. (*The Southern Patriot*, February, 1953).

*If law is to be a responsible institution in our society then it must, in an ever-fluid process, be molded by the moral values which represent man's movement toward a more perfect justice in human relations.*

### Report on Church-Related Colleges

Changing patterns of human relations throughout our nation are found in nearly every phase of our institutional life, including church related colleges in the South. A study\*, recently published in the *Journal of Negro Education*, Winter, 1953, Issue, describes admission practices among church related colleges in seventeen southern states and the District of Columbia.

On the whole, and among other things, the study yielded indications of a slowly developing trend toward opening college doors to qualified youth without regard to racial origin.

\*This study was prepared by the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations of the National Council of Churches. A very limited supply of reprints of this article is available at ten cents each from the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations.

### Correction

The November-December issue of *INS* carried an article entitled "Teachers Propose 'Interracial Organization'" which was quoted correctly from the *Norfolk Journal and Guide*. The article began, however, with "Virginia teachers unanimously adopted a resolution at their 65th Annual session (recently) calling for an interracial organization for the members of the profession." It has been called to the attention of the editors that since this statement implies that *all* teachers in Vir-

ginia were involved in this action and furthermore, since the only organization involved was the Virginia Teachers Association, reported to be composed entirely of Negro school teachers, therefore, an inaccurate picture is presented.

The editors are truly appreciative of all constructive suggestions and are pleased to clarify this matter. In the interest of developing a still more accurate presentation, news reports have been sought which would indicate actions taken by the remainder of public school teachers in the same state. It is indicated that The Virginia Education Association, reported to be composed entirely of white school teachers, did not take action on this matter at their last annual meeting.

### Meanwhile

A 30-day jail sentence and a \$50 fine were meted out last week by the Virginia Circuit Court of Appeals to the eight parents who refused to send their children 20 miles outside of the town of West Point to a jim-crow high school. . . .

The action on the part of the parents, which was called "the West Point strike," came about when the school board closed the Negro high school and ordered the parents to send the students to the Hamilton-Holmes High School, located some 20 miles away from the town of West Point and completely out of the school board's jurisdiction.

Instead, the parents sent their children to the all-white West Point High School for enrollment. They were bluntly refused on the ground that to accept them would be violating the segregation laws of the State of Virginia. Rather than send the students the distance to the Hamilton-Holmes High School, the parents kept them at home. Because of this action, the State claimed the parents violated the Virginia compulsory attendance laws.

In its briefs appealing the convictions, the NAACP stated that not only the attendance law was involved but also the state's segregation law, which was in violation of the 14th Amendment. (*St. Louis Argus*, February 20).

### DAY-TO-DAY HUMAN RIGHTS

"The practice of discrimination against human beings in public places because of race, color, creed or ancestry is the greatest single problem facing the western states of the nation." So states the Committee on Human Rights for the Western States of the National Bar Association, Inc.

A major topic considered by delegates to the last annual meeting of the Association was the guarantee of ordinary "day-to-day" human rights for every American, regardless of his race or color, in places of public accommodation, such as inns, hotels, restaurants, eating places, drug stores, places of public entertainment, amusement and recreation, and public conveyances.

The delegates noted that California, Colorado and Washington have statutes providing and guaranteeing the full and equal enjoyment of facilities and advan-



tages in transportation and places of public accommodation, public entertainment, amusement and recreation. They regarded with great dismay the absence of these basic statutes in the states of Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North and South Dakota, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming.

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO MIGRANT WORKERS

Plans to bring about introduction into the Pennsylvania State Legislature of a series of sweeping reform bills covering child labor, certification of labor camps, licensing of labor agents, minimum wages, and other aspects of the migrant farm labor were formulated . . . this week at a legislative conference (in Harrisburg, Pa.) on migrant labor sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Conference of branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Representatives of trade unions who attended the conference issued a statement giving "vigorous support" to the NAACP program on migrant labor in Pennsylvania, and announcing "Our labor movement has a serious responsibility to the thousands of Negro farm workers . . . brought into Pennsylvania as migrant farm workers. The conditions under which these workers labor in the farm lands of our state can only be characterized as a form of brutal exploitation, with the existence of child labor, indecent camp facilities, and a complete disregard for human rights." (*St. Louis Argus*, February 20).

## PERSPECTIVE

It begins to look as though there are only two kinds of white men in today's world. There are the whites who know that their race's day of world supremacy has passed, that the rising tide of color is blotting out the inequities of the past, that claims for cultural and political and even military superiority which whites have asserted for nearly five centuries must be abandoned. Then there are the whites who refuse to admit that any such turning point in history has been reached, but tell themselves that if only they are unyielding they can hold out as the rulers of a white man's world. Whites of the first sort are slowly but steadily adjusting to this changing racial world situation. Whites of the second sort are in a frenzy.

How great is their frenzy can be judged in this country by wild outbursts from race-baiting politicians, from demagogues who exploit group fears and prejudices, occasionally from men of wealth who offer millions to hard-pressed schools if they will prostitute themselves to preserve the white supremacy myth. But to see the lengths to which the white man's fears can drive a whole people, one should look at what is happening in the Union of South Africa. There, on February 16, the lower house of the parliament passed Prime Minister Malan's latest "public safety" bills. There was virtually no opposition, and there will be still less in the upper house. The white public of South Africa overwhelmingly approved. In the face of a feared threat to white supremacy,

cables Albion Ross to the New York Times, "the whites who cling to the fundamentals of democratic doctrine are an infinitesimal minority . . ." (*From an editorial in The Christian Century*, March 4).

## AMERICAN INDIANS

In the first annual report of American Indian Development, a project sponsored by the National Congress of American Indians, it was stated that "The purpose of the Project is to encourage Indians to build up their communities through their own efforts. However small the initial effort may be, it is felt that it is of critical importance that the effort be made. Only by assuming responsibility for the management of their affairs and the improvement of their living habits, can Indians hope to gain any real control over their destinies.

During the year, the Project conducted three workshops: (1) At Intermountain Indian School, Brigham City, Utah; (2) Sequoyah Indian School, Tahlequah, Oklahoma; and (3) at the Y. W. C. A., Phoenix, Arizona. The Workshops were not associated with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, although Federal Indian School facilities were used at the first two.

Tribes within the general area of a workshop are invited to send representatives and to pay their expenses, if possible. Emphasis is placed, however, on bringing together Indians who are interested in their communities and who have leadership potentialities. The Project will make assistance grants in cases of need. (*Annual Report, 1952; American Indian Development; Sponsored by National Congress of American Indians.*)

## ANA

Discrimination against Negroes now exists in only three of the 53 states and territorial affiliates of the American Nurses' Assn., it was disclosed recently.

In Virginia, the latest state to end racial bias in its Graduate Nurses Assn., the group confines all meetings to two cities in the state which offer unsegregated facilities, an ANA spokesman said. (*N. Y. Post*, January 28).

## DRAMA MISSES THE POINT

### *The Story —*

What promises to become one of Florida's most widely-known and far-famed attractions had its premier presentation before a preview audience, recently, at Lake Wales — a Passion Play, depicting the life of Christ from Palm Sunday to the Ascension. . . .

The preview audience was enraptured by the excellent acting, the perfect setting, the lighting effects, the acoustics, the mood music and the scenes and episodes of the Bible story as dramatized. Special praise was given the depiction of the Last Supper.

The public-spirited citizens of Lake Wales and those who have co-operated with them in making possible this superb production are to be highly commended. (*Tampa Morning Tribune*, January 12).

## Behind the Scenes —

There are other outdoor dramas located in the South that tell the story of our democracy in its youth, but this is the first permanently located presentation of the Passion Play in the South. The tragedy of the play goes beyond the crucifixion on the stage, for the Lake Wales board of directors of the play have decided on a policy of segregation for those attending the drama. Not only is this a denial of democracy; it is a contradiction of the play's message. You will not find segregation at Cherokee, N. C. for "Unto These Hills," but the Passion Play in Lake Wales will artificially separate the races at a performance that should rightly assume an atmosphere of worship rather than entertainment.

The Lake Wales Ministerial Association delegated a representative to the Passion Play board, who expressed the conviction that the planned segregation was both unnecessary and un-Christian. The board ignored the request for reversal of policy, and the segregation pattern was set. Thus, thousands of tourists will see Christ crucified by the hucksters of Florida in a story that is nothing more than a fairy tale in such a setting of injustice. (*Letter published in the New York Times*, December 21, 1952).

## REPORT ON LYNCHING

No lynchings occurred in the United States in 1952. This is the first year in 70 years that the record is clean, according to a report from Tuskegee Institute.

Since 1913 there have been 896 lynchings in the United States.

This is one of the most shameful blots on the history of our country but there is some consolation in the fact that the crime is disappearing. . . .

Our pride in the national freedom from lynching is lessened by another group crime that continues. For the four years, 1949-1952, there occurred at least 68 bombings or attempted bombings that were associated with racial or religious tensions.

Forty-nine were directed against Negroes. Ten against white (persons) and public institutions. Eight against Jewish synagogues, schools and community centers. One was against a Catholic church.

Bombings occurred in Alabama, California, Florida, Louisiana, Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. In Georgia there were three bombings, at Atlanta, Bainbridge and Rome. . . .

## MAN OF DECISION

The racial segregation issue which has plagued the University of the South since last June has cost the school its 1953 baccalaureate speaker.

The Very Rev. Dr. James A. Pike, dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, said yesterday he has withdrawn as the speaker and has declined a doctor of divinity degree from the Sewanee, Tenn., school because of its attitude on racial segregation. . . .

Dr. Pike, in a letter to Sewanee Vice Chancellor Edward N. McCrady, said "the



administration (of the school) cannot hide behind Tennessee law. The attempt to do so is dubious on both legal and ethical grounds."

He said that the law first should be challenged and its repeal sought. If this fails, he said, the law should be disobeyed. (*The Blade*, February 13).

In an editorial entitled: "The Church is Not to 'Conform'," The St. Louis Argus of February 20, quoted Dr. James A. Pike, dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. Dr. Pike makes reply to an invitation from the University of the South to participate in their 1953 graduation exercises. In part he wrote, "The Church has often been healthiest when it was illegal . . . We got our start that way, as a matter of fact."

"There is really very little danger that the administration and faculty would find itself in prison. But the picture of the theological faculty behind bars, instructing students gathered on the lawn around the county jail, is one which could inspire us to realize that the Church is not meant to 'conform to this world', and could attract many now indifferent people to a church which often, all too easily, blends with its surroundings."

## BRIEFLY

Five northeastern states have within the past few years adopted comprehensive laws providing for administrative enforcement of statutory prohibitions against discrimination in places of public accommodation. These new laws are two or three years old. Experience has already shown that they are working well, far better than the previous civil rights laws with their criminal penalties. (*Memorandum, American Jewish Congress*, November 7, 1952).

"The release of the Bergen County Employment Survey by Joseph L. Bustard, Director of the New Jersey Division Against Discrimination, represents the completion of the eleventh in the series of New Jersey counties in which studies have been made of employment policies and practices as they affect racial and cultural minorities in the State. A selected list of 151 plants was covered by this survey. Twenty-nine per cent of all the

workers (56,653) embraced by this survey were members of a minority group — Negro, Jewish, Italian-American, Puerto Rican, Portuguese, DP, Cuban, Chinese and Japanese . . ." After indicating that Negroes have been upgraded to some highly skilled industrial and professional jobs as well as to various white collar positions, the bulletin reported that "the introduction of Negro workers into the work force created no work stoppages, racial disturbances, or unfriendly social relations within any plant. Management, at times, was apprehensive of the placement of Negroes in the work group, but found their fears unconfirmed."

An extensive survey is being launched to discover the extent of racial and religious prejudice in U. S. Protestant publications. The study (is) a project of Yale Divinity School. . . . The Rev. Barnhard E. Olson, pastor of Grace Church, Waterbury, Conn., and a graduate student in religious education at Yale, is in charge of the project.

The Bibb County, Ga., Medical Society (recently became) the first unit in the Deep South to offer full membership to Negro physicians . . . (*The Southern Patriot*, December 10, 1952).

The reporter who went to church said, among other things, "I'm disappointed in the failure of many churches to meet the problems of our changing community. I'm talking about the exodus of population — neighborhoods changing from white to colored, from upper economic status to lower. For me, the church that picks up and runs when things change is compromising its religion." (*Church Council News*, Louisville, Ky., November 3, 1952).

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCE READING

The editors of Interracial News Service take pleasure in recommending the *Yearbook on Human Rights for 1950*, published by the United Nations, New York. This volume provides in readily accessible form comprehensive information on human rights and is therefore of permanent reference value to government officials, lawyers, ministers, scholars, libra-

rians, students, and others concerned with human values among the cultures of the world.

Significant constitutional, legislative, and judicial developments in the field of human rights are recorded, covering altogether seventy-one states of which number fifty-three are members of the United Nations.

*Christianity, Race and South African People* by Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, brings to its readers insight and understanding born of first hand observation along with skilled interpretation. Dr. Visser 't Hooft reports simply and clearly the patterns of human relations and the churches' relationships to the problems that must be solved in an effort to improve the relations among peoples of various racial and cultural origins in South Africa.

Copies of the booklet may be procured from the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations at twenty-five cents each or, in orders of fifty or more, at twenty cents each.

## TWENTY YEARS AGO

To give a broader perspective of progress in racial and cultural relations, here is another item reported in the Interracial News Service approximately twenty years ago. Quoted from INS: "Deliberate exclusion of Negroes from membership in American labor unions is illustrated in a list compiled by the U. S. Department of Commerce. The list shows that out of 20 important unions in the transportation and communication industries, only the I.W.W. (Industrial Workers of the World) admit Negroes, the others specifically excluding colored workers from membership." (*Interracial News Service*, March, 1932).

## NOTE

*This issue of the INS is mailed late due to unavoidable delaying circumstances.*

Published by the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations, Division of Christian Life and Work, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. Editors: J. Oscar Lee, and Alfred S. Kramer.



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CONVICTION AND A PREJUDICE IS THAT YOU CAN EXPLAIN A CONVICTION WITHOUT GETTING ANGRY.

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DEPARTMENT OF RACIAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS  
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